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THE GIFT OF
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THE

MANUAL

OF THE

American Bible Society.

NEW YORK:
AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY,
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1893.

BIBLE HOUSE, NEW YORK

THE

MANUAL

OF THE

American Bible Society:

CONTAINING

INFORMATION CONCERNING

ITS HISTORY, PRINCIPLES, AND WORK,

WITH OTHER

FACTS RELATING TO THE

Bible Cause in General.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY PRESS,
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MANUAL

OF THE

American Bible Society.

1. Invention of the Art of Printing.

It is generally conceded that the Art of Printing was invented by John Gutenberg, before the middle of the fifteenth century. He was a native of Mentz, a town situated on the Rhine, in the Duchy of Hesse, Germany. Gutenberg was aided in his experiments by other citizens of his native town, one of whom co-operated with him by making him needful pecuniary advances. The types used by Gutenberg were made of brass, and cut by the hand; and a high authority declares that "in principle, and in all the more important features, the modern moulds may be regarded as the moulds of Gutenberg."

2. Early Latin Bibles.

The first book printed with movable metal types was the Latin Bible, in two volumes, which appeared about the year 1455. This Bible was formerly styled the Mazarin Bible, because the first recognized copy was discovered in the library of Cardinal Mazarin. It is also called the Gutenberg Bible, from the name of its printer, while the scholarly author of "Incunabula Biblica" says that "it is more generally and appropriately known as the forty-two line Bible," from the number of lines in each column of its pages. It is very remarkable that this first issue from Gutenberg's press is even now one of the most splendid specimens of typography extant. Before the close of the fifteenth century one hundred and twenty-four editions of the Bible in Latin were printed in various cities of Europe, and the total number of known editions of the Bible in this language previous to the year 1800 is more than one thousand. Some of these editions are exceedingly rare, copies of the Gutenberg Bible having been sold for a sum which would procure nearly one hundred thousand Bibles now printed by the American Bible Society.

3. First English Translations of the Scriptures.

John Wickliffe's translation of the Scriptures was made in 1380; that of *William Tyndal* in 1526; that of *Miles Coverdale* in 1535; that of *Thomas Matthew* in 1537; and that of *Archbishop Cranmer* in 1539. The *Genevan version* appeared in the year 1560; and the celebrated *Bishops' Bible*, under the auspices of Archbishop Parker, in 1568. Forty-three years after the appearance of the one last named, *King James's version* of the Bible, which is now in general use, was completed and given to the world.

4. The Douay Version.

The Douay Version of the Bible, which is used by Roman Catholics, is composed of the Old Testament, translated from the Latin Vulgate by the English College at Douay, in France, in the year 1609; and the New Testament, translated also from the Latin Vulgate by the English College at Rheims, in France, in the year 1582, twenty-seven years previously. These two translations, put together, constitute what is commonly called the Douay Bible, which is published with the authority and approbation of the Roman Catholic Church.

5. English Version of King James.

The English version of King James receives its name from the fact that it was made during the reign of *James the First, King of England.* The work was accomplished by forty-seven learned men, who were appointed by the Crown for that purpose, and who, after about seven years of most diligent application to the work, gave it to the publisher in the year 1611. After the version was completed, it was printed by Joseph Barker, "Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty," and, according to the title-page, was "appointed to be read in churches."

Seventeen of the translators were directed to work at Westminster, fifteen at Cambridge, and fifteen at Oxford. Those who met at each of these places were divided into two companies, so that there were, in fact, six distinct companies of translators, to each of which was allotted certain books of the Bible. *Each man, in each company,*

was required to translate separately each chapter in course; and then, when the company came together, they were to compare what they had done and *agree on a common translation.* When one company had thus agreed, it sent its work to each of the other companies, to be *critically reviewed by all.* If any company, upon reviewing the work of the other companies, found anything doubtful or unsatisfactory, they were required to note the places and their reasons for differing, and to send it back to the company from which it came. If that company did not concur in the suggestions made, the matter was to be arranged at a general meeting of the chief persons of all the companies at the end of the work. *By this arrangement every part of the Bible was most closely scrutinized at least fourteen times.*

This is the English *version* of the Scriptures now "*in common use,*" spoken of in the first article of the Constitution of the American Bible Society.

6. Revised English Bible.

At different periods during the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, efforts, more or less formal, were made to secure a revision of the Authorized Version of the English Bible. On the 10th day of February, 1870, the subject was brought before the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, by Dr. Wilberforce, the Bishop of Winchester. Action was then taken formally inaugurating the undertaking which resulted in the publication of the Revised English Bible. About fifty eminent scholars in Great Britain, and thirty in the United States, representing various branches of the Christian Church, were associated in this difficult and important enterprise. The New Testament appeared in 1881, and the entire Bible in 1885. Such views of the American revisers as were not finally approved by the English revisers were published in an appendix, and it was agreed that the American revisers would give their support to the editions printed in England, and would not issue an edition in the United States for the term of fourteen years.

This Revised English Bible cannot be circulated by the American Bible Society unless its Constitution is amended, at an annual meeting,

on the recommendation of the Board of Managers. Very few expressions of desire for such an amendment have ever been received from the Society's constituents.

7. The First Proposal to Print the English Bible in This Hemisphere.

Among the collections in the Library of the American Bible Society may be seen a *fac-simile* of Wm. Bradford's proposals for printing a large Bible, as long ago as 1688. It reads as follows: "These are to give Notice, that it is proposed for a large house-Bible to be Printed by way of Subscriptions, [a method usual in England for the Printing of large Volumns, because Printing is very chargeable] therefore to all that are willing to forward so good (and great) a work, as the Printing of the holy Bible, are offered these Proposals, *viz.*: 1. That It shall be printed in a fair Character, on good Paper, and well bound. 2. That it shall contain the Old and New Testament, with the Apocraphy, and all to have useful Marginal Notes. 3. That it shall be allowed (to them that subscribe) for Twenty Shillings *per Bible:* [A Price which one of the same volumn in *England* would cost]. 4. That the pay shall be half Silver Money, and half Country Produce at Money price. One half down now, and the other half on the delivery of the Bibles. * * * * Also, this may further give notice that *Samuell Richardson* and *Samuell Carpenter* of *Philadelphia*, are appointed to take care and be assistant in the laying out of the Subscription Money, and to see that it be imploy'd to the use intended, and consequently that the whole Work be expedited. Which is promised by

" *William Bradford.*

" *Philadelphia*, the 14th of
the 1st Month, 1688."

8. The First Bibles Printed in the United States.

The New Testament, translated into the Indian language by Eliot the missionary, was printed at Cambridge, Massachusetts, by Samuel Green and Marmaduke Johnson, A. D. 1661. The entire Bible, in the same lan-

guage, by the same Rev. John Eliot, was printed by the same publishers in 1663. The Testament was republished in 1680, and the Bible in 1685.

The entire Bible in the German language was printed at Germantown, Pennsylvania, by Christopher Saur, in 1743. Several editions of the German Bible were issued subsequently from the same press.

9. Action Taken by the National Congress.

Upon the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, all British publications being kept out of the country, a great scarcity of the Holy Scriptures began to be generally felt, and Dr. Patrick Allison and others brought the subject before Congress by a memorial in which they petitioned that an edition of the Bible might be printed by the government. The memorial was referred to a committee whose report recognized the importance of the Bible to the nation, but in view of the difficulty and risk of procuring types and paper, and of the uncertain state of affairs, proposed that the Committee of Congress should be directed to import 20,000 copies of the Bible from Holland, or Scotland, or elsewhere. The order was accordingly made.

10. Early Publications of the Scriptures in the United States.

In 1777 the New Testament in English was printed in Philadelphia, by Robert Aitken; and in 1782 the same publisher printed the entire Bible, the first English Bible printed in this country. This book was recommended by Congress, having been first examined by the chaplains, who reported favorably on it.

In 1790 the Douay Bible was printed in Philadelphia.

In that year the English Bible was again printed in Philadelphia, by William Young. In 1791 it was printed in Worcester, Mass., by Isaiah Thomas, and also in Trenton, N. J., by Isaac Collins, a member of the Society of Friends.

In the year 1801, Matthew Carey, of Philadelphia, in the preface of a Bible which he then published, says: "I present this edition of the Bible to the public, with a degree of solicitude proportioned to the *magnitude of the undertaking*. Having embarked therein a large

property, and devoted my utmost care and attention to it from its commencement to its completion, I find it impossible to assume that degree of stoicism necessary to regard with indifference its reception by my fellow-citizens."

11. Prospectus for Printing a Royal Quarto Bible in Massachusetts, in the Year 1789.

Isaiah Thomas, of Worcester, Mass., issued a prospectus for printing "a Royal Quarto Bible" by subscription, in November, 1789, of which the following are some of the conditions: "1. It shall be printed with elegant new *Types*, already made and completed, particularly for the purpose—types large, beautiful, and suited for the accommodation of the eyes of all, especially those of the aged and infirm. 2. The Paper shall be fully equal in goodness, if not of a superior quality to the (English) Cambridge, Oxford, or London, Royal Quarto Edition. 3. The *Price* to Subscribers, handsomely bound, shall be only *Seven dollars*, although the English Editions of the same size, and of an inferior quality, are sold for eight or nine dollars. 4. To make payment easy to those who wish to be encouragers of this laudable undertaking, and to be in possession of so valuable property as a Royal Quarto Bible, and who are not able to pay for one all in Cash—from such the Publisher will receive one-half of the sum, or *twenty-one shillings*, in the following articles, viz.: *Wheat*, *Rye*, *Indian Corn*, *Butter*, or *Pork*, if delivered at his store in *Worcester*, or at the store of himself and Company in *Boston*, by the 20th day of December, 1790; the remaining sum of *twenty-one* shillings to be paid in Cash, as soon as the books are ready for delivery. This proposal is made to accommodate all, notwithstanding the sum of twenty-one shillings will by no means be the proportion of cost that each Bible, bound, will cost the Publisher. 5. The work will be committed to the Press, as soon as a sufficient number of Bibles are subscribed for, barely to defray half the expense of the undertaking. Notice will be given in the Newspapers, when the Bible will be put to press. * * * * *The Booksellers* in the United States, who subscribe for *twelve* or *more* copies in sheets, shall have them on full as generous terms as the Booksellers in England are supplied with English Editions."

12. Efforts to Secure the Correctness of the Text of the Scriptures.

At their annual convention, in the spring of 1790, the Congregational ministers of Massachusetts adopted a memorial "praying that Congress would take such measures as the Constitution would permit, that no edition of the Bible, or its translation, should be published in America without its being carefully inspected and certified to be free from error." In this petition other ecclesiastical bodies united, but inasmuch as the Constitution of the United States expressly provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press," the whole matter, after careful consideration by that body, was indefinitely postponed.

13. The Canstein Bible Institute.

As there were reformers before the Reformation, so there were Bible societies before the great Bible society era which coincides with the early years of the nineteenth century. The most noted of these societies is the one which was founded by Carl Hildebrand, the Marquis of Canstein, and known as the "Canstein Bible Institute in the Orphans' Home at Halle." In the year 1710 he issued an "Extraordinary Proposal—How to Bring God's Word into the Hands of the Poor for Edification at a Low Price." Before the death of the Marquis, which occurred in 1719, 40,000 Bibles and 100,000 Testaments had been printed largely through his liberal gifts. The total circulation of this organization, in various languages, was reported in 1879 to be 6,100,000 volumes.

14. Bible Societies in England.

In 1787 there was a Bible organization in the city of London called the "Naval and Military Bible Society," designed to furnish the Scriptures to the navy and the army of Great Britain. In May, 1792, the "French Bible Society" was instituted in London, having for its object the printing of the Scriptures in the French language for distri-

bution in France. The disturbed condition of the country, however, prevented the execution of the plan.

15. Formation of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

The British and Foreign Bible Society was organized in the city of London in 1804.

The library of that society contains, among other treasures, a Welsh Bible, published in 1799 by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, upon one of the blank pages of which is written: "Mary Jones His the True Owner of this Bible. Bought in the year 1800. Aged 16." Mary Jones, the writer, had for more than six years before this date been laying aside all the money she could possibly save, with her heart set upon buying a Bible. It was twenty-five miles from her retired home to Bala, the residence of the Rev. Thomas Charles, to whom she had been directed. She walked this entire distance, to and fro, and procured this now historic volume. When she first applied to Mr. Charles, and was told that the few copies he had were reserved for persons who had already made application for them, she burst into tears and sobs. The fond hope of years seemed to be blasted in a moment. These evidences of her sad disappointment led Mr. Charles at length to say: "My dear child, difficult as it is to spare you one, it is impossible—yes, simply impossible to refuse you;" and so she obtained the Bible which, for the sixty-six remaining years of her life, was her most cherished possession. For at least ten years before the date of this incident various efforts had been made to supply the great want of the Scriptures in Wales. A few thousand copies of the Welsh Bible had been published by the Society for the Promotion of Christian

dge, but the hunger of the people for the bread of life was not

rough all this time the apostolic Charles, and others of

deeply and actively engaged in efforts to supply the

nd when this incident occurred he said to a friend

rom this day I can never rest until I find out some

ie pressing want of my country that cries out for

d he did not rest. He wrote many letters upon

the subject to friends in England, and in December, 1802, at a meeting of the Religious Tract Society of London, he made such a vigorous presentation of the matter, urging the formation of a society for the purpose, that warm hearts responded, and the Rev. Joseph Hughes exclaimed: "Surely a society might be formed for this purpose; and if for Wales, why not for the world?" Action was immediately taken looking to this end, and after the most discreet preparatory measures, the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed on Wednesday, the 7th day of March, 1804.

16. Earliest Bible Societies in the United States.

The *first* Bible society in the United States was instituted in Philadelphia, in the year 1808, about four years after the organization of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London. The *second*, the Connecticut Bible Society, was instituted in Hartford, in May, 1809. The *third*, the Massachusetts Bible Society, was organized in Boston, in July of the same year. The *fourth*, the New York Bible Society, was instituted in the city of New York, in November, 1809. The *fifth*, the New Jersey, was organized in Princeton, in December of the same year. Other similar societies sprang up from time to time until a printed list, published in June, 1816, enumerates one hundred and twenty-eight which had been formed in twenty-one different States and Territories. Thirty-five of these local organizations united in forming the American Bible Society, and eighty-four became auxiliary to that Institution during the first year of its existence.

17. Origin of the American Bible Society.

The local societies, just referred to, were necessarily feeble at the first, and obliged to conduct the Bible work under very serious disadvantages. To give completeness and increased efficiency to that work throughout the country, a central organization was called for. The subject was thoroughly discussed, both publicly and privately, by the friends of the cause, no one being more active and efficient in these incipient movements than the Rev. Samuel J. Mills, whose observations

as a missionary in the Western and Southern States of the Union impressed him with the imperative demand for a great central organization. As a result of a large comparison of views a plan for a *National Bible Society* was formally proposed, in the year 1815, by the New Jersey organization, at the head of which stood the Hon. Elias Boudinot, of Burlington, in that State. Notice was given of a Convention to be held in the city of New York, for the consideration, and if the way should be clear, for the adoption of the plan; and on the second Wednesday, the 8th of May, 1816, the friends of the enterprise met in the Consistory Room of the Reformed Dutch Church, in Garden Street, in New York, according to appointment. Delegates from thirty-five local Bible societies were present at the Convention, besides four representatives of the Society of Friends, making sixty in all. Joshua M. Wallace, Esq., delegate from the New Jersey Bible Society, was chosen President of the Convention, and Rev. J. B. Romeyn, D. D., and Rev. Lyman Beecher were elected Secretaries.

The object of the Convention having been stated, after full and free discussion it was then and there, with entire unanimity,

"*Resolved*, That it is expedient to establish, without delay, a general Bible Institution for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment."

A Constitution was then adopted, and an address to the people of the United States ordered to be prepared and sent out into all parts of the country, after which Executive Officers and a very able Board of Managers were chosen, and the American Bible Society entered at once upon its career of benevolence and Christian usefulness.

18. Members of the Convention Which Formed the Society.

The following gentlemen, sixty in number, were members of the Convention which formed the American Bible Society, to wit:

Bassett, Rev. John, D.D., Bushwick, N. Y.
Bayard, Samuel, Princeton, N. J.
Beecher, Rev. Lyman, *Secretary of the Convention*, Litchfield, Ct.
Biggs, Thomas J., Nassau Hall, Princeton, N. J.
Blatchford, Rev. Samuel, D.D., Lansingburgh, N. Y.
Blythe, Rev. James, D.D., Lexington, Ky.
Bogart, Rev. David S., Long Island, N. Y.
Bradford, Rev. John M., D.D., Albany, N. Y.

Burd, William, Lynchburg, Va.
Caldwell, John E., New York.
Callender, Levi, Catskill, N. Y.
Chester, Rev. John, Albany, N. Y.
Clarke, Matthew St. Clair, Chambersburg, Pa.
Cooley, Rev. Eli F., Cooperstown, N. Y.
Cooper, James Fennimore, Cooperstown, N. Y.
Day, Orrin, Catskill, N. Y.
Eddy, Thomas, New York.
Ford, Henry, Cayuga County, N. Y.
Forrest, Rev. Robert, Delaware County, N. Y.
Griscom, John, New York.
Hall, Rev. James, D.D., Statesville, N. C.
Henshaw, Rev. J. P. K., Baltimore, Md.
Hornblower, Joseph C., Newark, N. J.
Humphrey, Rev. Heman, Fairfield, Ct.
Jay, William, Bedford, N. Y.
Jones, Rev. David, Newark, N. J.
Lewis, Rev. Isaac, D.D., Greenwich, Ct.
Linklaen, Gen. John, Cazenovia, N. Y.
McDowell, Rev. John, Elizabethtown, N. J.
Mason, Rev. John M., D.D., New York.
Milledoler, Rev. Philip, D.D., New York.
Morse, Rev. Jedediah, D.D., Charlestown, Mass.
Mott, Valentine, M.D., New York.
Mulligan, William C., New York.
Murray, John, Jr., New York.
Nell, Rev. John, D.D., Albany, N. Y.
Nott, Rev. Eliphalet, D.D., Schenectady, N. Y.
Oliver, Rev. Andrew, Springfield, N. Y.
Platt, Isaac W., Nassau Hall, Princeton, N. J.
Proudfit, Rev. Alexander, D.D., Salem, N. Y.
Rice, Rev. John H., Richmond, Va.
Richards, Rev. James, D.D., Newark, N.J.
Romeyn, Rev. John B., D.D., *Secretary of the Convention*, New York.
Sands, Joshua, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sayres, Rev. Gilbert H., Jamaica, N. Y.
Sedgwick, Robert, New York.
Skinner, Ichabod, Connecticut.
Spring, Rev. Samuel, D.D., Newburyport, Mass.
Spring, Rev. Gardiner, New York.
Swift, Gen. Joseph G., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Taylor, Rev. Nathaniel W., New Haven, Ct.
Van Sinderen, Adrian, Newtown, N. Y.
Vroom, Guysbert B., New York.
Wallace, Joshua M., *President of the Convention*, Burlington, N. J.
Warner, Henry W., New York.
Williams, Rev. John, New York.
Williams, William, Vernon, N. Y.
Wilmur, Rev. Simon, Swedesboro', N. J.
Woodhull, Rev. George S., Cranberry, N. J.
Wright, Charles, Flushing, N. Y.

These have all passed away. The last survivor was Henry W. Warner, Esq., who died on the 20th of February, 1875.

19. The Constitution Prepared and Adopted.

The Constitution of the Society, which may be found in the Appendix, was prepared by a large and very able Committee, consisting of the Rev. Drs. Nott, Mason, Morse, and Blythe, Rev. Messrs. Beecher, Rice, Wilmur, and Jones, Hon. Messrs. Samuel Bayard and William Jay, and Mr. Charles Wright. After the fullest discussion, it was adopted with entire unanimity by the Convention.

Hon. Elias Boudinot, the first President of the Society, in announcing the event to the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, says: "There was not a single dissenting voice in the Convention, though it was formed from different denominations; they all seemed to be of one heart and one mind. The whole proceedings from Wednesday, the 8th of May, until Monday, the 13th, clearly discovered the divine agency; and even some from among those least affected could not help crying out aloud, '*This is none other than the work of the Lord!*'"

20. Address to the People of the United States.

The Society's first address to the people of the United States, which may be found in its first Annual Report and was one of very great power, was drawn up by the Rev. Dr. John M. Mason and sent out with the Constitution into every portion of the country. The following extract from that address will show the spirit which animated the founders of the Society, and the simple and sublime object which they contemplated: "Under such impressions, and with such views, fathers, brethren, fellow-citizens, the American Bible Society has been formed. Local feelings, party prejudices, sectarian jealousies, are excluded by its very nature. Its members are leagued in that, and in that alone, which calls up every hallowed and puts down every unhallowed principle—the dissemination of the Scriptures in the received versions where they exist, and in the most faithful where they may be required. In such a work, whatever is dignified, kind, venerable, and true, has ample scope; while sectarian littleness and rivalries can find no avenue of admission. Come, then, fellow-citizens, fellow-Christians, let us join in the sacred covenant. Let no heart be cold, no hand be idle, no purse reluctant. Come, while room is left for us in the ranks of those whose toil is goodness, and whose recompense is victory."

21. Congratulations From the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Soon after the formation of the American Bible Society, its first President, Hon. Elias Boudinot, wrote to the British and Foreign Bible Society announcing the happy event; and the following is a part of the noble response received from its Secretary, the Rev. John Owen:

"The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society have instructed me to offer you their *warmest congratulations* on the event of the formation of the American Bible Society, an event which they consider as truly auspicious and pregnant with consequences most advantageous to the promotion of that great work in which the American brethren and themselves are mutually engaged. To these congratulations our Committee have added a *grant of five hundred*

pounds sterling; and they trust that both will be accepted, as indications and pledges of that friendly disposition which it is their desire to cultivate and manifest toward every class and description of their trans-Atlantic fellow-laborers. The crisis at which the American Bible Society has been formed, and the cordial unanimity which has reigned through all the proceedings which led to its establishment, encourage the most sanguine hopes of its proving, in the hand of God, a powerful auxiliary in the confederate warfare which is now carrying on against ignorance and sin. May these hopes be realized, and may new trophies be added, through its instrumentality, to those triumphs which have already been reaped by the arms of our common Redeemer!"

22. Act of Incorporation.

For twenty-five years after its organization, the Society prosecuted its work without being incorporated. It did so, however, with great inconvenience, and often at the imminent peril of its highest interests. On the 25th of March, 1841, an act of incorporation was granted it by the legislature of the State of New York; and subsequent acts passed by the same body—April 13th, 1852, April 24th, 1872, and April 5th, 1888—gave it special authority to hold personal property, to take real estate by gift, bequest, or devise, and to act as trustee in respect to any gift or grant, bequest or devise, pertaining to the objects of the Corporation: so that *the Society is now fully competent, and duly authorized by law, to guard every variety of trust committed to its custody.*

23. The Benevolent Character of the Society.

The American Bible Society is a *benevolent Institution.* Those who founded it, and their successors, have ever aimed by all wise methods to place the Holy Scriptures within the reach of all. The publications of the Society are in no case sold at a profit. Those who are able to purchase them can do so at the mere cost of their manufacture, while those whose circumstances call for such consideration are supplied without price. In many cases the Society incurs the expense of bearing the

sacred volumes to the homes of those who would not otherwise be able to obtain them.

24. The Society Unsectarian.

The American Bible Society is also strictly unsectarian. Its Board of Managers represents seven different denominations of Christians. It labors to circulate the Scriptures among all classes impartially, and its affairs are managed without denominational bias or control.

In this connection it is proper to refer to the principle adopted in relation to the publishing of scriptural notes and comments. The first article of the Constitution explicitly declares that "the sole object of the Institution is to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures *without note or comment.*"

The wisdom as well as the necessity of this principle can scarcely be called in question by those who bestow any reflection upon the subject.

25. The Board of Managers.

The government of the Society, according to the Constitution, is intrusted to a Board of Managers, consisting of *thirty-six laymen*, one-fourth of whom go out of office each year, but are re-eligible. Laymen who were constituted Directors for Life before June 1, 1877 (by the payment of one hundred and fifty dollars), and ministers who are Life Members (by the payment of thirty dollars) are authorized to attend the meetings of the Board, with power to speak and vote.

The number of elected Managers since the organization of the Society is two hundred and twenty-eight.

The Managers meet regularly in the Managers' Room in the Bible House, in New York, on the *first Thursday of every month*, and oftener as the business of the Society may require.

26. The Officers of the Society.

The Society, since its organization, has had eleven *Presidents*, as follows:

Hon. Elias Boudinot, LL.D., ...	from 1816 to 1821.
Hon. John Jay, LL.D., ...	" 1821 " 1827.

Hon. Richard Varick,	from	1828	to	1831.
Hon. John Cotton Smith, LL.D.,	"	1831	"	1845.
Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, LL.D.,	"	1846	"	1862.
Hon. Luther Bradish, LL.D.,	"	1862	"	1863.
James Lenox, Esq.,	"	1864	"	1871.
William H. Allen, LL.D.,	"	1872	"	1880.
S. Wells Williams, LL.D.,	"	1881	"	1884.
Hon. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen,	"	1884	"	1885.
Hon. Enoch L. Fancher, LL.D.,	"	1885	"	——.

It has had one hundred and fifty-three *Vice-Presidents* (to Jan. 1, 1893), the list of whom includes some of the most distinguished laymen of the country.

The following have been, at different periods, the *Corresponding Secretaries* of the Society:

Rev. John M. Mason, D.D.,	from	1816	to	1820.
Rev. John B. Romeyn, D.D.,	"	1816	"	1819.
Rev. James Milnor, D.D.,	"	1819	"	1840.
Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, D.D.,	"	1820	"	1825.
Rev. Thos. McAuley, D.D., LL.D.,	"	1825	"	1839.
Rev. Charles G. Sommers, D.D.,	"	1825	"	1833.
Rev. Nathan Bangs, D.D.,	"	1827	"	1829.
Rev. John C. Brigham, D.D.,	"	1828	"	1862.
Rev. Spencer H. Cone, D.D.,	"	1833	"	1836.
Rev. Edmund S. Janes, D.D.,	"	1840	"	1844.
Rev. Noah Levings, D.D.,	"	1844	"	1849.
Rev. S. Irenæus Prime, D.D.,	"	1849	"	1850.
Rev. Joseph Holdich, D.D.,	"	1849	"	1878.
Rev. Joseph C. Stiles, D.D.,	"	1850	"	1852.
Rev. James H. M'Neill,	"	1853	"	1861.
Rev. William J. R. Taylor, D.D.,	"	1862	"	1870.
Rev. T. Ralston Smith, D.D.,	"	1866	"	1871.
Rev. Edward W. Gilman, D.D.,	"	1871	"	——.
Rev. Alexander M'Lean, D.D.,	"	1874	"	——.
Rev. Albert S. Hunt, D.D.,	"	1878	"	——.

The *Treasurers* of the Society, in their order, have been as follows:

Hon. Richard Varick,	from	1816	to	1820.
William W. Woolsey, Esq.,	"	1820	"	1827.
John Adams, Esq.,	"	1828	"	1832.
Garrett N. Bleecker, Esq.,	"	1832	"	1832.
Hubert Van Wagenen, Esq.,	"	1832	"	1836.
John Nitchie, Esq.,	"	1836	"	1838.
Abraham Keyser, Esq.,	"	1838	"	1840.
William Whitlock, Jr., Esq.,	"	1840	"	1875.
William Foulke, Esq.,	"	1886	"	——.

In the earlier history of the Society, the office of *Recording Secretary and Accountant* was held by

John Pintard, LL.D., ...	from 1816 to 1832.
Robert F. Winslow, Esq., ...	" 1832 " 1836.

In 1818, Mr. John E. Caldwell was appointed the Society's *Agent.*

In 1819, John Nitchie, Esq., was appointed *Agent and Accountant.*

The office of *General Agent and Assistant Treasurer* has been held by

John Nitchie, Esq., ...	from 1832 to 1836.
Joseph Hyde, Esq., ...	" 1836 " 1854.

In 1853, the office of General Agent and Assistant Treasurer was divided, and the following gentlemen have since acted as *Assistant Treasurers:*

Henry Fisher, Esq., ...	from 1853 to 1869.
Andrew L. Taylor, Esq., ...	" 1869 " 1886.

In 1854, Caleb T. Rowe, Esq., was elected *General Agent.*

27. The Standing Committees.

The Society has ten *Standing Committees*, appointed to supervise and direct, under the Board of Managers, the various departments of its work. The Committee on Versions, which has the oversight of the textual correctness of the Society's issues, is composed of seven clergymen representing as many different denominations of Christians.

The Committees on Finance, Publication, and Legacies, and the Auditing Committee, are composed of laymen only. The Committees on Distribution, Agencies, Anniversaries, and Auxiliaries comprise both clergymen and laymen. These several Committees consist of seven members each, except the Auditing Committee, which consists of three. The several chairmen of the committees already named constitute the Committee of General Reference.

Some of the Committees meet regularly once in each month, while others meet only upon special call, and oftener than once a month, if the business of the Society requires. They carefully consider all matters pertaining to their respective departments, and *the results of their*

deliberations are laid before the entire Board of Managers for approval at their regular monthly meetings. By this means the Board is able to secure the most careful consideration of all measures which it is called upon to adopt, and at the same time to superintend, with comparative ease and pre-eminent safety, all its various, complicated, and extensive interests.

28. Life Directors and Life Members.

Since the Society's organization, about sixty thousand persons have sustained toward it the relation of Life Directors or Life Members. Many of these have already passed away to their heavenly reward. There are still living, however, so far as the officers can ascertain, more than 40,000 of this honored company.

29. Certificates of Membership.

The Certificate which the Society gives to each of its Life Directors and Members was prepared under the direction of a special Committee consisting of the Hon. Luther Bradish, Rev. William Adams, D. D., and Francis Hall, Esq., and was adopted by the Board of Managers on the second of February, 1854. The beautiful vignette which appears upon it represents the Saviour in the act of directing the scribes and Pharisees to the Holy Scriptures for a true knowledge of himself and of the way of eternal life, and is designed to illustrate the thirty-ninth verse of the fifth chapter of St. John's Gospel. It was engraved from a design by Mr. F. Schlegel, of New York, who was employed by the Board for that purpose. The original painting, purchased by a special subscription, is suspended in the Managers' Room, and is much admired as a work of art.

30. Privileges of Life Directors and Life Members.

Each Life Member of the Society is allowed to receive annually, on application at the Society's House, *provided they are called for within the year*, Bibles and Testaments to the value of one dollar; and each

Life Director to the value of two dollars and a half. An account of this class of issues is kept in a separate book, and the amount of such issues presented in the Annual Report. The motive which led to the adoption of this measure will be seen from the following extract from the Twenty-sixth Annual Report: "The above regulation was adopted from a conviction that there are multitudes of individuals in the community —orphans, apprentices, servants, boatmen, stage-drivers, and the like— who have no Bibles and but few religious privileges, and who might to some extent be supplied by the method thus proposed: for who will be more likely to scatter the Sacred Volume among those who are destitute than those who have shown such a regard for that volume as to make themselves members and directors of an Institution which furnishes it for distribution?" From this it is easy to see that the object of the Board in making this arrangement was strictly a *benevolent* or *charitable* one, and that the books designed to be drawn out are usually to be of the *plain, cheap kind*, which are suitable for gratuitous distribution among the persons already specified.

It may be added that, to accommodate those who prefer to draw their annuities from depositories in their neighborhood, orders will be furnished to members, upon their written application at the Bible House, enabling them to obtain their supply from the nearest auxiliary society. Upon the return of such orders to the Bible House, the auxiliary society will receive credit for the value of books furnished. In no case can this class of books be supplied except for the *current year* of the Society, beginning with the first of April.

31. Auxiliary Societies.

The Society has had on its register for a considerable time about two thousand Auxiliaries, and these have more than 5,000 branch organizations; so that it is probable there are not less than 7,000 Bible societies in this country which, directly or indirectly, centre in this Institution.

32. Agencies.

Though frequently encouraged and aided by the commendatory action of ecclesiastical bodies, the Society is unable, from its very

structure, to depend alone upon ecclesiastical machinery for carrying out its objects. Hence it has found the employment of intelligent and capable Agents *indispensable* to the proper maintenance and enlargement of the work of Bible distribution, as well as to the collection of funds.

To prevent misapprehension in regard to the true position of those who superintend the interests of the Society in the field, the following pertinent extracts are presented from the Fifty-third Annual Report (1869):

"The collection of money is only a small part of their many duties. They are *Superintendents of the whole work of the Society and its auxiliaries* in their several districts. To a large extent they are Bible missionaries, devoted to the dessemination of the Scriptures among the poor and in the waste places. Especially is this true in the Western, Southern, and Pacific States, and in the new Territories, where population is sparse and travel is difficult. A large part of their services, for this reason, might as well be charged to our purely benevolent account, as those of our Agents in Turkey, and Mexico, and South America. Most of the money secured by their efforts, in the pulpit and out of it, is *paid to Auxiliaries*. It goes to *buy their Bibles*, to *support their colporteurs*, to *swell their donations* to the poor and to the Parent Society. The Agents generally supervise the work of distribution of the Scriptures for the Auxiliaries, and they labor in many other ways in their behalf. The whole amount of money which they secure and receive does not appear in our Reports. For these reasons it is manifest that their services should be estimated by their value both to the Society and its Auxiliaries, only a few of which do not wish the labors of these Agents."

33. Official Organs.

The official organs of the Society are the "Bible Society Record," its "Annual Report," its "Instructions to Agents," its "Manual for Auxiliaries," and this little work—the "Manual of the American Bible Society," together with such circulars, pamphlets, etc., as it sends out from time to time by the direction of the Board of Managers, and

attested by the signatures of its Executive Officers. From these various sources the Christian public may secure duly authenticated information in relation to all the principles, official representations, and various operations of the Society. The *Bible Society Record* is issued as a monthly periodical of sixteen pages, and is intended to give to the friends of the Society an account of its work in the preparation and distribution of the Scriptures at home and abroad. As its publication is not intended to be remunerative, the subscription price is simply nominal, and the greater part of the edition has always been issued gratuitously.

34. The Society's Financial Year.

The Society's financial year closes on the *last day of March*. Funds, intended to be included in the accounts of a particular year, must *reach* the Bible House not later than the date above specified.

35. The Annual Meeting of the Society.

The time fixed in the Constitution for the annual meeting of the Society is the *second Thursday in May*. This meeting is held in the Bible House, in the city of New York, generally in the afternoon. Anniversary services for reports and addresses may be held either in New York or elsewhere. The officers of auxiliary societies have the privilege of speaking and voting at the annual meetings.

36. The Bible House.

For a brief period after the organization of the Society the Managers were indebted for the use of rooms in which to hold their monthly meetings to the courtesy of the mayor of the city of New York, to the governors of the New York Hospital, and to the New York Historical Society.

The original depository was in the office of the Society's Agent, at the corner of Cedar and Nassau streets; then a room of larger dimensions, though only seven feet by nine, was rented at No. 10 Cliff street; and still later a room twenty feet square was occupied in Hanover street, under the shadow of the Merchants' Exchange. After other

removals the Society in 1822 erected a building on the west side of Nassau street, between Beekman and Ann streets. The Managers met there for the first time on the second day of January, 1823. Seven years later the building was much enlarged, and it was believed that ample accommodations were provided for many years to come. As early, however, as 1846 it became obvious to the Managers that the premises in Nassau street were inadequate to the demands of the expanding operations of the Society. In February, 1847, a Committee was appointed whose efforts, after several unsuccessful attempts to secure a suitable location elsewhere, resulted in the purchase of the site now occupied by the Society.

The corner-stone of the new Bible House was laid with most impressive ceremonies on the 24th of June, 1852. The Society took possession of the building in May, 1853, the first regular meeting of the Managers being held therein in June of that year. At the meeting of the Board, held on the 2d of February, 1854, the Building Committee submitted their final report. It was a time of sacred joy. Resolutions of thanks to the members of the Committee were proposed, and while every one was prepared to indorse them Dr. Tyng, with deep feeling, suggested that before we gave thanks to men we ought to give thanks to God; and the Rev. Dr. Spring, on the invitation of the chair, led in expressions of thanksgiving and praise.

This edifice stands by itself, on an open square, bounded by Third and Fourth Avenues, Astor Place, and Ninth street, containing about three-quarters of an acre, and having a circumference of over seven hundred feet. The building covers the entire square, with an open court in the centre, and is six stories high. It is built of brick, with freestone copings, and, without being in any way extravagant in architectural embellishment, it commands attention by its magnitude, its admirable proportions, and its chaste, neat, and appropriate finish. The entire structure is a noble monument to the liberality of those who contributed toward its erection, and is in every respect worthy of the Institution, the interests and growing prosperity of which it is intended to promote.

The cost of the Bible House was $100,000 for the ground and $204,000 for the building, making a total of $304,000. The Bible House on

Nassau street, which was erected by special contributions for the purpose, sold for $105,000. New subscriptions were made, amounting to $59,000, leaving a balance of $140,000 to be provided for. Within about ten years from the day of its completion the building was entirely unencumbered by debt, the sum of $140,000 having been received from rentals and appropriated to the sinking fund. The historic documents, which present the views of the Board concerning the Bible House, repeatedly set forth with emphasis the fact that *not a dollar of the ordinary benevolent contributions was used in the erection of the building.*

After a lapse of thirty-six years the Bible House required thorough and extensive repairs. Not only were these demanded for sanitary reasons, but the requirements of tenants could not be met without the introduction of elevators and several other modern improvements. The cost of such changes as were positively required, even without enlarging the building, was ascertained to be so considerable that it was believed to be wise to make a still larger outlay, and, by adding a full sixth story to the structure, greatly increase the number of rooms to be rented. The resources of the Society for general purposes will not indeed be augmented from rentals until the debt incurred by these heavy expenditures has been paid. This debt amounts, March 31st, 1893, to about $70,000.

37. The Library.

The Society has a choice Biblical Library of more than forty-seven hundred volumes. The collection contains editions of the Holy Scriptures in more than one hundred and fifty languages and dialects, the various versions published at the expense of the Society in foreign lands being well represented. Several valuable manuscripts, rare old Bibles in the Latin, English, German, Dutch, and other languages, and many other volumes scarcely less interesting, are highly prized.

The Library is also rich in sets of the reports and periodicals of the leading missionary and other benevolent societies of the United States; but perhaps its most striking feature is its unusually large collection of versions and revisions showing the deep and scholarly interest which has been manifested for many years in the translation of the Scriptures into the English language.

The Managers' Room in the Bible House, in which most of these books are kept, is also made especially attractive by many rare portraits of the Presidents and other distinguished friends of the Society.

In this connection it may also be stated that the official correspondence of the Society, which contains invaluable materials for the future historian, is carefully preserved in its archives.

38. The Working Force in the Bible House.

This is divided into two branches—the Executive and Manufacturing. The former comprises the departments of the Corresponding Secretaries, the Treasurer, and the General Agent. The latter includes the Printing, Electrotyping, Proof-reading, and Binding departments, and those of the Depositary and Engineer. In the Printing department and the Bindery many of the employees are women.

The aggregate number of persons engaged in the service of the Society in the Bible House does not vary much from two hundred and fifty.

39. Printing-presses and Machinery.

The Society has, as far as practicable, taken advantage of all improvements which have recently been made in the various appliances of its work.

One steam-engine of 120 horse-power furnishes the motive power required for manufacturing, elevators, and electric light. The printing is executed upon Adams's celebrated platform power-presses, of which there are eleven, and the Hoe stop-cylinder press, of which there are six, besides three smaller presses. This extensive apparatus is sufficient for printing nearly two millions of Bibles, Testaments, and parts of the Bible, in the usual proportions, annually; or about 7,000 copies for every working day in the year. The increase of capacity in this department has been fully one-third since 1867.

In the Bindery also many valuable modern improvements have been adopted, including twelve folding machines and eight book-sewing machines; and by this means various processes, which were formerly carried on exclusively by hand, are now accomplished by machinery.

Under the court-yard of the building are two non-explosive boilers of 185 horse-power each, which generate steam for motive power and for heating the entire building, in which there are about forty miles of steam pipe. There are also six steam pumps supplying water to the boilers, for manufacturing and other necessary purposes.

40. Stereotype and Electrotype Plates.

The Society owns 135 sets of stereotype and electrotype plates of the Bible, or of portions of it, comprising 80,000 pages. Some of these, as the plates of the Quarto and the Imperial Quarto Bibles, the Bible in raised letters for the Blind, the Royal Octavo Bible, Arabic Bible, Slavic and Bulgarian Testament, Syriac Testament and Psalms, Hawaiian Reference Bible, etc., have been prepared at a very great expense; and all of them are among the very best specimens of modern typographic art. These plates, carefully arranged in boxes and marked, so that any of them can be found without difficulty, are laid away in fire-proof vaults built expressly for them under the Bible House, and are guarded thus from those casualties to which, in a great city, they would be otherwise exposed.

41. The Bible for the Blind.

Fifty years ago the Society began to publish the entire Bible for the Blind, in what is known as the Boston line-letter. In 1875 it began the issue of single Gospels, in the New York "point-print," and it is confidently expected that the whole Bible will be published in this character before the close of the present year. Nearly nineteen thousand volumes of these very expensive publications have now been issued. Most of these volumes have been granted gratuitously, while the few which have not been thus bestowed have been sold at prices far below the actual cost of manufacture, thus impressively illustrating the benevolent character of the Society's work.

42. Styles and Prices of the Society's Books.

In the year 1852 the Board of Managers carefully considered th principle observed by the Society in fixing the prices of its issues

able Committee, to whom the subject had been intrusted, presented a comprehensive and valuable report, which was adopted by the Board, and from which the following extracts are given:

"This Society is, by its Constitution, shut up to a line of action which allows of no profit whatever on sales. The IIId Article of the Constitution reads thus:

"'All Bible societies shall be allowed to purchase, at cost, from this Society, Bibles for distribution within their own districts.'

"The IXth Article provides thus:

"'Each member of the Society shall be entitled, under the direction of the Board of Managers, to purchase Bibles and Testaments at the Society's prices, which shall be as low as possible.'"

In accordance with these views, the Bibles and Testaments published by the Society are sold uniformly for cash, without discount, at the list (or cost) prices, to all purchasers, with the sole exception that to auxiliary societies and dealers in books a discount of ten per cent. is made. And in order to avoid all charges of speculation in the Society's books, the Auxiliaries are earnestly requested to carry out the benevolent design of the Parent Society by selling books at first cost when they are able, and in no case to add more than the cost of transportation and depository expenses. The Society publishes at the Bible House, at the present time, English Bibles and Testaments in a great variety of sizes, ranging from Great Primer to Diamond type, with all the intermediate sizes of type, and puts them up in from four to six different styles of binding.

In the manufacture of books by the Society the greatest pains are taken to secure the most durable material and the most thorough workmanship, and it is confidently believed that in accuracy, durability, and neatness its publications are superior to any books of foreign or home production which can be offered at corresponding prices.

43. Receipts of the Society Since its Organization.

A statement [illegible] nce its organization, is con [illegible] ncrease has, of

course, not been uniform from year to year, the following comparative view will give a very just idea of the growth of the Society's work :

	Receipts.		Receipts.
In the 1st year.....	$37,779 35		
" 10th "	53,639 85	In the 1st ten years	$449,532 73
" 20th "	101,771 48	" 2d "	954,897 94
" 30th "	196,182 48	" 3d "	1,233,039 95
" 40th "	393,167 25	" 4th "	3,042,632 44
" 50th "	642,625 64	" 5th "	4,754,850 65
" 60th "	527,198 27	" 6th "	6,794,188 60
" 70th "	523,910 59	" 7th "	5,521,044 71

The total receipts to the close of the fiscal year, March 31st, 1893, were $26,546,248 39.

44. Legacies.

Included in the previous statement of receipts is the sum of somewhat more than $4,000,000, representing the bequests of more than three thousand persons.

The history of these testamentary gifts is full of tender and grateful interest, and is associated with a long roll of honored names, which the Annual Reports of the Society, for more than half a century, have treasured up among the records of the blessed dead. Perhaps, in many cases, the smallest sums bequeathed may have had a value and significance like those of the widow's mite; while all of them, it is to be hoped, like the prayers and alms of the Roman centurion, "are come up for a memorial before God."

It needs, however, to be said that the amounts derived from legacies are so uncertain and fluctuating that the Society cannot, with safety, place any great dependence upon this source of income. In arranging its plans and meeting its engagements, it must *rely chiefly upon the systematic and conscientious co-operation of its living patrons.*

45. Volumes Issued by the Society.

The total number of volumes issued by the Society, from its organization to the close of the fiscal year, March 31st, 1893, is 56,926,771.

The growth of this department of the work is shown by the following table :

	ISSUES.		ISSUES.
In the 1st year.....	6,410 copies		
" 10th "	67,134	" In the 1st ten years	439,580 copies
" 20th "	221,694	" " 2d "	1,549,848 "
" 30th "	483,873	" " 3d "	2,510,156 "
" 40th "	668,265	" " 4th "	6,772,338 "
" 50th "	1,150,528	" " 5th "	10,513,654 "
" 60th "	850,470	" " 6th "	11,340,190 "
" 70th "	1,437,440	" " 7th "	13,751,880 "

The issues of the five years ending March 31st, 1893, numbering 7,127,208 volumes, largely exceeded the issues of the first thirty-three years.

46. Donations of Books.

The number of Bibles and Testaments gratuitously distributed by the Society to its feeble Auxiliaries, to missionary boards and other benevolent agencies, to Sunday schools, to seamen, the army and the navy, without including those printed at the Society's expense in foreign lands, is considerably more than five millions. If to these be added the gratuitous distribution of all its Auxiliaries, some idea may be formed of the extent of this part of the Bible work, as it is prosecuted by the American Bible Society.

47. Grants of Money.

The pecuniary grants of the Society, which have been made for the most part to the various foreign missionary boards of this country, cannot readily be distinguished from the expenditures made directly by the Society in other lands; but up to the close of the seventy-sixth fiscal year, three million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars have been expended upon the foreign field. The expansion of the work in this direction is shown by comparing the expenditure of the first decade, which was $2,333, with the expenditure of the ten years ending March 31st, 1892, which was $1,493,893 33. In other words, the amount devoted to the foreign field in the last ten years is much greater than the entire expenditure for that purpose during the first half century of the Society's history.

48. The Supply of Destitute Sabbath Schools.

From the first year of its existence the Society has contributed toward the supply of destitute Sabbath schools in every portion of the United States. In the year 1831 the Board of Managers passed the following resolution: "That they view with great satisfaction the efforts of the present day to encourage the study of the Sacred Scriptures in Sunday schools; and that they shall always feel disposed, so far as they are able, to aid such schools, of *every religious denomination*, by furnishing, at reduced prices or gratuitously, through their respective unions, such Bibles and Testaments as may be needed." Since the adoption of that resolution, the Society has made grants of books to destitute Sabbath schools to the number of more than eight hundred thousand volumes; and, in addition to these, probably as many more have been gratuitously contributed to the same object by the Society's Auxiliaries, within their respective fields. Notwithstanding this distribution, it was found that comparatively few of the 8,000,000 children, who are estimated as attending Sunday school, possessed a Bible which they could call their own. In the year 1890 the Board of Managers resolved that, so far as possible, this want should be supplied, and to this end sought the co-operation of all the Auxiliary Bible Societies, and of pastors, Christian parents, Sunday school superintendents, and teachers; and thus a great impetus has been given to this special work.

49. Distribution of the Scriptures in the United States Army.

The Society has at all times endeavored to meet its responsibilities toward the army. But its efforts in this direction were very greatly increased during the recent civil war. It is estimated that up to the last of March, 1870, the Society had distributed gratuitously among soldiers not far from two and a half millions of volumes, besides having made grants of more than half a million of volumes for the use of the navy of the seceding States. During the war nearly a million and a [illegible] of Bibles and Testaments, furnished gratuitously by this Society,

were circulated in the army through the agencies of the United States Christian Commission alone.

The amount of additional work done in this department by Auxiliary societies cannot be accurately ascertained.

50. Distribution of the Scriptures among Seamen.

The Society has been prompt to embrace every opportunity of giving the Scriptures to the naval forces of the country, as well as to seamen generally. For the most part, this distribution has been effected by Auxiliaries, and especially by those located in the principal seaports. Yet the Society has granted directly, in this department, more than a quarter of a million of volumes.

The Auxiliaries in Boston, New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Mobile, New Orleans, San Francisco, and other cities have rendered very important service by their extensive marine distribution. In 1892, the New York Bible Society reported 6,295 volumes circulated among seamen during the year. Other societies also report that this branch of their work receives due attention. The American Seamen's Friend Society, the American Bethel Society, and kindred organizations have been supplied with donations of the Scriptures, which, by their judicious distribution have gone out through many channels, and to all parts of the world, on their beneficent mission.

51. Distribution in Hotels, Steamboats, and Railroads.

At an early period in the history of the Society, the Board of Managers adopted a resolution requesting Auxiliary societies throughout the country to furnish the rooms of hotels and the cabins of steamboats with suitable copies of the Bible, usually at *half the cost price.*

A wholly *gratuitous* supply was not designed in ordinary cases, the purpose being rather, by diminishing the price of Bibles, to induce the proprietors of hotels and steamboats to *purchase.* As Bibles in these public places are peculiarly exposed to injury, it is important that

those having them in charge should possess some pecuniary interest in them.

In accordance with this resolution, the Society and its Auxiliaries have diligently attended to this important work, and many thousands of volumes have found their way into the dormitories and parlors of hotels and into the saloons of steamboats. In the great centres of trade especially, and on the principal thoroughfares, this distribution has been carefully made, and benefits have thus been conferred upon the travelling community which it would be difficult to measure.

Much has also been done in the way of making the Bible accessible, upon railway cars, to those who are daily passing over the great thoroughfares of our land; and grants of Scriptures were freely made to the principal railroad corporations, on condition of their furnishing suitable racks and giving due care to the preservation of the books. Experience has shown that it is almost impossible to keep these racks supplied, and that the books placed in them are but little read.

52. The Supply of Humane and Criminal Institutions.

A liberal distribution of the Scriptures among the inmates of charitable and penal institutions has been effected through Auxiliary societies, who are left to judge of the merits of the applications submitted to them. It is important, however, in the case of institutions supported by the State rather than by private charity, that measures be taken to impress upon the public authorities their responsibility toward the criminal and unfortunate classes under their care, and to obtain from them the requisite supplies of Bibles and Testaments. Where these efforts fail, the local societies must exercise their best judgment as to the steps to be taken in the premises. But the institutions referred to are not considered as ordinarily within the range of charitable objects directly assisted by this Society.

Its aid is cheerfully and liberally extended, however, to *national* asylums, and to benevolent institutions supported by private benefactions, when the necessary grants cannot be obtained from the Auxiliaries.

The work that has been done in these several directions is considerable in amount, and embraces many features of interest.

53. Distribution Among Immigrants.

The immigration into the United States from the Old World is immense. At the single port of New York 67,797 immigrants were landed in the month of May, 1892. During the twelve months ending September 31st, 1892, the number was 436,026. The great majority of these persons have come hither destitute of the word of God; and through this Society, and its Auxiliaries, they have been supplied, either immediately upon their arrival or soon afterward, with the Scriptures to the extent of many thousands of volumes. During the year 1891–'92, the New York City Bible Society alone distributed 60,100 volumes to persons of this class after they had landed. Other Auxiliaries have also taken an interest in the work, and this Society is continually aiding it by liberal donations.

The important bearing of this distribution upon the best interests of the land and its institutions, it is unnecessary to affirm.

54. Distribution Among the Poor.

This branch of the Society's operations has always occupied a most prominent place. The circulation of the Scriptures among the poor and neglected classes, in the great centres of population, on the frontier, and in all portions of the country, has been very extensive. It is impossible to state the exact number of persons and families who have thus been gratuitously supplied by this Society and its Auxiliaries; but the principle observed is that no one shall be refused the Bible on account of inability to purchase.

It needs to be impressed, however, on local societies and individual distributers that the best interests of the recipients are promoted by urging them to pay at least a part of the price, and as large a part as possible, for the books they desire. The Sacred Volume is more highly esteemed, and is more likely to be properly cared for and used, when it has cost its possessor something. Hence, while none are to be denied on account of their poverty, too much care cannot be taken to avoid an indiscriminate and wasteful distribution.

55. Distribution Among Freedmen.

Prior to April 1st, 1863, applications for the Scriptures in behalf of the freed people were not very numerous. This department of the Society's work, however, grew rapidly after that date; and the Reports from 1864 to 1869, inclusive, show that 147,345 volumes had been granted, within that period, directly for the use of the freedmen. Yet even this number represents but a small proportion of what has actually been done for this class, as it does not include an extensive distribution effected by the Auxiliaries. As the work has become better organized, the distribution has been more largely left to these local societies; and as it is not always distinguished from the general work in their reports, full and accurate statistics to the latest date cannot be given.

Among the other channels that have been most successfully employed for circulating the Scriptures among the freed people, may be mentioned the American Missionary Association, the National Freedmen's Relief Association, the several Freedmen's Aid Societies, the American Tract Societies of New York and Boston, the various Ecclesiastical Boards, and chaplains, teachers, and superintendents of public instruction in the South.

56. Special Efforts to Supply the United States with the Scriptures.

In the year 1829 the Society instituted a general exploration of the States and Territories of the country, with a view of supplying all the destitute with the word of life. It is believed that every accessible family in the more settled portions of the country was visited at that time.

In the year 1856 a second effort of the same character was entered upon, resulting, within two years, according to the nearest estimates, in the supply of 500,000 destitute families with the Sacred Volume.

The third general supply of the whole country was begun in 1866, as an appropriate method of celebrating the completion of the first half-century of the Society's history. In view of the condition of the country and its immense and widely-spread population, rapidly push-

ing its way into new regions, this undertaking was entered upon in the face of peculiar difficulties. The destitution was known to be immense, and much of it not easily to be reached. The work, however, was vigorously carried forward, with results of the most gratifying character. It included within its comprehensive reach the immigrant, the sailor, the soldier, the railway laborer, the canal-boatman, the miner, the lumberman, and the multitudes of all classes in our cities, villages, and rural districts, and upon the frontier. Special attention, as we have already shown, was paid to the freedmen; and provision was made for the Chinese who were then thronging our western shores and finding their way even to the interior of the country.

From the inception of this work, in 1866, to March 31st, 1882—a period of sixteen years—the results reported are represented by the following figures:

Number of families visited,	8,813,298
Number of families found without the Scriptures,	1,082,558
Number of destitute families supplied,	753,760
Individuals supplied in addition,	488,273

The Board of Managers, at their meeting, April 6th, 1882, adopted resolutions looking to a *fourth* general resupply of the whole country with the Scriptures. The results of this great undertaking, as reported at the close of the year ending March 31st, 1890, are as follows:

Families visited,	6,309,628
Families found without the Scriptures,	757,581
Families found without the Scriptures supplied,	473,806
Individuals supplied in addition,	299,053

The statistics given in this paragraph do *not* include the distribution effected by the various benevolent institutions to which grants, in money or books, have been made by the Society. And, doubtless, not a little of the work done by Auxiliaries and individuals has failed to be reported. The families that refuse the Scriptures are, for the most part, Romanists. It is worthy of note that the entire distribution of Scriptures, in this country, during the eight years embraced in the fourth resupply, was 8,146,808 copies, in twenty-seven different languages. Some of these are as follows: In Welsh, 29,287; German, 473,920; Dutch, 11,807; Norwegian and Danish, 153,707; Swedish,

220,777; Italian, 57,883; Finnish, 2,314; Polish, 2,317; Hungarian, 2,543; Bohemian, 9,924; Chinese, 7,243.

In comparing recent statistics with those of an early period of the Society's history, it will be found that the proportion of families in the United States destitute of the Scriptures is much smaller than it was when the Society was instituted, notwithstanding the immense growth of our population.

57. Distribution by Colporteurs of the American Bible Society.

When the fourth re-supply was commenced in 1882, the Managers, desiring to make it as thorough as possible, determined to employ colporteurs in those parts of the country where there were no auxiliaries, or where these were unable to make a thorough canvass of their own fields.

A large number of colporteurs were engaged for this work, and with the most satisfactory results. In the eight years which were occupied by this re-supply, the colporteurs visited 2,993,144 families, and found 418,171 of these without a Bible in their homes; they supplied 309,012, and 167,132 individuals in addition.

To supply these families and individuals with the Scriptures, one million sixty-seven thousand six hundred and two copies, of the value of $449,634 64, were sold; and three hundred and nine thousand five hundred and sixty-nine, of the value of $75,917 14, were donated. The salaries and expenses of the colporteurs, including freight on books, amounted to $404,609 83; adding to this the cost of the books donated gives a total expenditure for colportage in eight years, from 1882 to 1890, of $480,526 97.

This form of effort has proved to be direct and efficient, and it will be continued.

58. Foreign Work of the Society.

The foreign work of the Society is conducted directly by its own special Agents and colporteurs, and indirectly through foreign missionary societies sustained by various Christian denominations of the United

States, or through the local Bible societies established in other lands.

The Society has been able to give very important assistance in promoting new versions of the Scriptures. Resolutions adopted by the Board of Managers in 1835 expressed the interest which they felt in the efforts of American missionaries, of different religious denominations, in translating the Scriptures into various languages and dialects, and gave them encouragement to expect aid in publishing any version of the Scriptures when correctly translated and made ready for the press. In some cases also the Society has directly borne the expense of translating and of revising, or has made appropriations to missionary societies to defray the current expenses of translation.

Nineteen years ago the American Bible Society had but two special Agencies—the La Plata and the Levant. That number has been increased to eleven—six in the Western and five in the Eastern Continent.

59. Bible Distribution on the Western Continent.

La Plata.—The La Plata Agency includes Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentine Republic, Bolivia, South Brazil, Chili, Peru, and Ecuador—a field which is over two-thirds the area of the United States. Two years after the American Bible Society was organized it printed the New Testament in Spanish, and in subsequent years many volumes were sent to various parts of South America. In 1864 Mr. Andrew M. Milne became the Agent of the La Plata field, portions of which, at various times during the previous thirty years, had been visited by representatives of the Society who were sent out on tours of exploration. The Scriptures have been circulated in ten languages. The total issues of the La Plata Agency from its commencement to December 31st, 1892, were 351,135 volumes.

Peru.—In the middle of November, 1885, the Rev. Andrew M. Milne, accompanied by the Rev. Francis Penzotti, began a tour which ended with the close of the year 1886. This most important mission demanded a journey around the entire continent, and enabled them to

visit all the republics of South America hitherto unoccupied by the Society. As one of the definite results of this tour the Rev. Francis Penzotti was stationed in Peru to look after the West Coast.

VENEZUELA.—The tour made by Mr. Milne and Mr. Penzotti, already alluded to, was attended by the most satisfactory results in Venezuela. They canvassed, by house-to-house visitation, some thirteen cities and towns, including Caracas, La Guayra, Valencia, and Maracaibo, and disposed of 2,660 volumes of the Scriptures. These results were so full of promise that the Rev. William Patterson, D.D., was sent to take charge of this field in April, 1888. In August, 1889, he died from yellow fever, and was succeeded in May, 1891, by the Rev. Joseph Norwood. His work has been greatly hindered by the prevalent civil disorder, but enough has been accomplished to encourage the hope that under other circumstances a large distribution of the Scriptures will be effected.

BRAZIL.—The Scriptures were freely sent to Brazil for many years before 1855, when the Rev. J. C. Fletcher was commissioned to represent the Society in that empire. He was succeeded, in the order named, by Mr. Robert Nesbit, the Rev. A. L. Blackford, and the Rev. William M. Brown. The latter resigned in 1887, and was succeeded the same year by the Rev. H. C. Tucker. The Scriptures circulated are for the most part in Portuguese. A better version of the Bible in this language is greatly needed.

The total reported circulation in Brazil for the twelve years ending December 31st, 1892, was 90,449 volumes.

MEXICO.—Grants and consignments of the Scriptures were sent by this Society to various parts of Mexico from 1826 onward. In 1834 Mr. Sumner Bacon was appointed Agent for what was then the province of Texas. The Rev. William H. Norris was sent, in 1848, as a special Agent to the capital, then occupied by the U. S. troops. Intelligence is still received from time to time of the good accomplished by copies of the Scriptures distributed among the people of that country during the Mexican war. The labors of Miss Melinda Rankin on the border, in 1852 and later, led to the introduction of many copies of the Scriptures into Mexico. Then followed the appointment in succession of the Rev.

R. P. Thompson, the Rev. James Hickey, and Mr. Thos. M. Westrup, as Agents of the Society. In 1878 Dr. Arthur Gore was sent to represent the Society and reside in the capital, and a year later the Rev. H. P. Hamilton succeeded him. More than 190,000 volumes of Scripture were put in circulation under his oversight before January 1st, 1893. Much of the distribution has been effected through colporteurs who have been employed in every State of the republic.

CUBA.—Organized effort for the circulation of the Scriptures began in December, 1882. The Rev. Thomas L. Gulick visited the island on a tour of exploration under the auspices of this Society in 1883, and again in 1884. In December, 1884, the Rev. A. J. McKim was appointed Agent. He has visited from house to house even the extreme parts of the island. For the ten years closing December, 1892, nearly 38,000 copies of the Spanish Scriptures have been sold.

PANAMA AND CENTRAL AMERICA.—Work in Panama and Central America was commenced in the autumn of 1892 by the Rev. Joseph Norwood and the Rev. Francis Penzotti, and as a result of their labors more than ten thousand copies of the Scriptures were sold during the six months ending May 1st, 1893.

This condensed account of the Society's foreign work on the Western Continent is concluded by stating that the number of volumes sent from the Bible House to Latin America, including Cuba, during the ten years ending March 31st, 1893, is 538,237.

60. BIBLE DISTRIBUTION ON THE EASTERN CONTINENT.

THE LEVANT.—This Agency includes European and Asiatic Turkey, Eastern Roumelia, a part of Bulgaria, Syria, and Egypt, with Sub-Agencies at Beirut and Alexandria. The first Agent, Dr. S. H. Calhoun, was appointed in 1836. He resigned after eight years of service, and for ten years after the Bible work of the field was transacted through the missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The Rev. C. N. Righter was placed in charge of the Agency in 1854, but his labors were soon terminated by his death. He was succeeded, in 1857, by the Rev. Isaac G. Bliss, who continued in the service of the

Society, with headquarters at Constantinople, until his death, in 1889. A full and interesting account of the work accomplished under his oversight for twenty-five years appears in the Annual Report of the Society for 1883. The Rev. Marcellus Bowen, who was appointed Assistant Agent in 1888, took charge of this field in 1889. The Scriptures are circulated in the field of the Levant Agency in about thirty languages, and the total issues for the thirty-five years ending December 31st, 1892, amount to 1,306,814 copies.

PERSIA.—In 1880 the Rev. W. L. Whipple was appointed Agent for Persia, the work having previously been conducted in connection with the Levant Agency. For the thirteen years ending December 31st, 1892, 50,052 volumes have been issued in this field.

CHINA.—The first regular Agent of the American Bible Society to China was the Rev. Luther H. Gulick, M.D., who was appointed in 1876. Japan was at first included with China under his care, but was made a distinct Agency in 1881, and Siam was added, but was itself also made independent in 1889. Dr. Gulick was obliged by the state of his health to resign his position in 1890, and he was succeeded by the Rev. L. N. Wheeler, D.D., who remained in charge of that field until his death in April, 1893. Number of copies of Scripture, mostly Portions, distributed in China in sixteen years, ending March 31st, 1893, 2,787,455.

SIAM.—Bible work in Siam was for many years carried on by the missionaries of the Presbyterian Board. The work, however, was so much enlarged that in 1889 the Rev. John Carrington was appointed Agent. In 1890 the issues were 9,625 volumes, or nearly as many as during the five years immediately preceding, and the total issues there since 1889 have been 36,027 volumes.

JAPAN AND KOREA.—Japan was connected with China under the care of Dr. Gulick from 1876 to 1881, when the Rev. Henry Loomis was appointed Agent. In 1872 the Society made a grant to promote the publication of some of the Gospels. It subsequently assumed the support of Drs. S. R. Brown and D. C. Greene, and bore a considerable part of the expense of translating the New Testament, which appeared in parts and was completed in 1880. The first edition of the entire Bible

appeared in 1888, other Bible societies uniting in the work. An edition with full references was published in 1889. In 1883 the entire Bible was issued in Chino-Japanese. The Gospels and Acts in Chino-Korean have been published as a means of access to the educated classes, and a Korean version of Mark made at the Society's expense by Rijutei was printed in Japan in 1885.

An arrangement was made in 1890 between the American Bible Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the National Bible Society of Scotland by which the oversight of the publication and distribution of the Scriptures was intrusted to a Committee of twelve persons. One-half of the expense is borne by the American Bible Society.

There were 605,380 volumes issued by the Japan Agency from the beginning to July 1st, 1890, at which time the work in that field was committed to the oversight of the Bible Societies' Committee.

RUSSIA.—The American Bible Society has no regularly organized Agency in Russia, though an American merchant, residing in St. Petersburg, has for many years acted as representative of the Society in its relations with the Russian Bible Society and in connection with the work in the Baltic Provinces. Liberal grants have been made for the support of colporteurs in Central Asia, Siberia, and the Amoor region.

61. PROGRESS MADE IN BIBLE WORK.

It would be a matter of great interest to ascertain definitely the number of languages and dialects into which the Scriptures have been translated. The distinguished scholar, R. N. Cust, LL.D., of London, published tables in 1890, which were prepared after many years of specific investigation, in which he gives a list of 269 languages, apparently not counting dialects, in which Bible translations have actually been accomplished. In the year 1892 the British and Foreign Bible Society published a list of 304 languages and dialects in which that Society has promoted the translation, printing, or distribution of the whole or part of the Bible. This list omits about fifty versions prepared under the auspices of the American Bible Society and other similar organizations, which the British and Foreign Bible Society has not

undertaken to circulate. We are therefore justified in concluding that there are 350 languages and dialects which have received some portion of the Holy Scriptures.

The American Bible Society has aided in the translation, printing, or distribution of the Scriptures in the following languages and dialects—ninety-five in all: Hebrew, Greek, English, Gaelic, Irish, Welsh, French, Spanish, Hebrew-Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, Hebrew-German, Dutch, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, Polish, Bohemian, Hungarian, Latin, Modern Greek, Albanian, Roumanian, Servian, Bulgarian, Slavonic, Russian, and Reval-Esthonian; Turkish, Osmanli-Turkish, Græco-Turkish, Armeno-Turkish, Ancient Armenian, Modern Armenian, Koordish, Azerbijan, Arabic, Ancient Syriac, Modern Syriac, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu, Canarese, Tamil, Marathi, Pahari, Kumaoni, Gurmúkhi, Siamese, Laos, Mongolian, Burmese, Chinese (Classical), Easy Wenli, Chinese (Mandarin), the Foochow, Swatow, Shanghai, Soochow, Canton, Ningpo, and Amoy Colloquials, Japanese, Japanese (Kunten), and Corean; Hawaiian, Ebon (Marshall Islands), Gilbert Islands, Kusaien, Ponape, Mortlock, and Ruk; Dakota, Muskokee (Creek), Choctaw, Cherokee, Mohawk, Seneca, Ojibwa, Delaware, and Nez Perces; Zulu, Benga, Grebo, Mpongwe, Dikele, Tonga, Umbundu, and Sheetswa; Creolese, Arrawack, and Aymara. This is indeed a work in which all Christian hearts may well rejoice, but our gratitude for what has already been accomplished by this and similar institutions should be blended with an intelligent appreciation of the greater work which remains to be done. The entire Bible has not yet been translated into even one hundred languages, and more than sixty of the three hundred and fifty languages and dialects in which the Holy Scriptures have been printed have received only a single book of the Bible. It is clear that the work which is yet to be accomplished will demand the patient efforts of the devout and benevolent for many coming years.

62. Principles on Which Foreign Translations are Aided.

The By-laws of the Board of Managers assign to the Committee on Versions the charge of all translations of the Bible published or distrib-

uted by the Society, and make it their duty to recommend measures for securing new versions and to inquire into the catholicity and fidelity of such translations as may be presented for adoption.

In the administration of this trust it is the aim of the Board to favor such foreign versions only as in point of fidelity and catholicity are conformed to the principles upon which the Society was originally founded, and such as may be consistently used and circulated by all the religious denominations represented in it. In all cases where it is practicable, the approbation of a committee of missionaries, or others who are skilled in the language, is a pre-requisite to the acceptance of a new version in a foreign tongue.

63. The Society's Standard English Text.

All copies of the Scriptures in the English language, circulated by this Society, are conformed to one Standard, which was prepared with much painstaking after a collation of various English and Scotch publications, including a copy printed in 1611. This collation was made by the late Rev. James W. M'Lane, D.D., and was brought to its completion May 1st, 1851, under the direction of the Committee on Versions, then consisting of the Rev. Drs. Spring, Turner, Robinson, Vermilye, M'Clintock, and Storrs, and Thomas Cock, M.D. The collation extended to all the details of typography, including orthography, capital letters, words in italic, punctuation, hyphens, brackets, etc.; and although the number of variations or discrepancies noted in the text and punctuation of the six copies compared were numerous, *there was not one of the entire number which marred the integrity of the text or affected any doctrine or precept of the Bible.* In reducing these variations to one uniform Standard, the Committee made a few changes, which they considered typographical corrections of the text, and also modernized somewhat the chapter-headings and other accessories of the text; but as this part of their work gave dissatisfaction in some quarters, the Managers concluded so far to modify the new Standard as to omit every alteration which had not the sanction of previous editions. This was accordingly done, and the result is found in the volumes now published, which are considered remarkably

free from errors of the press, and which contain the English Scriptures, conformed as nearly as possible to the best editions which have been in circulation for generations.

64. The Number of Bibles Printed in the Present Century.

The demand for the printed Bible has always been great. It is supposed that within three years after the publication of the Great Bible, in 1539, no less than twenty-one thousand copies were printed. Between 1524 and 1611, 278 editions of Bibles and Testaments in English were printed. In 1611, 1612, and 1613, five editions of King James's version were published, besides separate editions of the New Testament; and we have some slight clew to the size of the editions in the fact that one person in England has recently collated no less than seventy copies of the issues of 1611; yet, after all, this was the day of small things.

Previous to April 1st, 1892, the British and Foreign Bible Society had issued 131,844,796, and the American Bible Society 55,531,908 Bibles, Testaments, and Portions. Other Bible societies have issued not far from fifty millions; while private publishers in Great Britain, the United States, and elsewhere, have increased these issues by scores of millions besides.

65. Countries in Which the Scriptures are Now Circulated.

The Scriptures are circulated, at the present day, among nearly all the nations of the earth.

In all European countries, including Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Russia, Turkey, and Greece, and even in the city of Rome itself, the door is fully open.

In Asia the Scriptures are circulated largely throughout the Turkish empire and in Persia; while India, China, Siam, and Japan furnish extended fields for Bible distribution.

Africa—north, south, east, and west—is also open, including Egypt, where much is done in circulating the word of God.

In North America there is no hindrance to the work, not even in Mexico, where there is great demand for the Scriptures.

In most parts of Central and South America, and in the West India Islands, the way is now open for distributing the Sacred Volume; while many of the South Sea Islands are also accessible. Indeed there are few countries where legal impediments to the circulation of the Scriptures any longer exist. Such obstructions as may still be met with arise chiefly from popular ignorance and prejudice, and in Romish communities from the influence of the priesthood.

66. The Past and Present Cost of the Bible.

Before the invention of the art of printing the Bible was reproduced exclusively by briefmen or copyists, who wrote it out with the pen. *It was then the most expensive book in the world.* Dr. Plumer, in his tract, "How to Use the Bible," states that "in the thirteenth century, in England, two arches of London Bridge cost £25. At the same time a copy of the Bible, with a few explanatory notes, cost £30. Then the wages of a laborer, if found, amounted to but ninepence a week." In other words, the cost of such a Bible was equal to the entire wages in money of a laboring man for over fifteen years.

Even after the invention of printing the Bible could not be obtained, for a long time, except at fabulous prices. At so late a period as that of the American Revolution, the very cheapest editions of the Bible were valued at not less than two dollars a volume; whereas the American Bible Society furnishes the entire Scriptures in German for thirty cents, and in English for twenty cents. The New Testament, in English, is sold for five cents: so that *the Bible has become the very cheapest book in the world.*

67. "Testimony of Distinguished Laymen to the Value of the Sacred Scriptures."

During the summer of 1852 the Secretaries of this Society, with the approval of the Managers, wrote to many of the most distinguished laymen of our country, inviting them to express their views in relation to "*the value of the Scriptures, particularly in their bearing on*

civil and social life." Able and satisfactory responses were received, which were afterward embodied in a valuable pamphlet designed for general distribution. The names of Clay, Sergeant, Taylor, Hornblower, Cass, Pinckney, Butler, Bradish, Frelinghuysen, Vroom, Washburn, Everett, Rives, M'Lean, Greenleaf, Seward, Swain, Lumpkin, Silliman, and Walworth, indicate the importance of the sentiments thus placed on record. This pamphlet has also been published in the Spanish language and largely circulated, especially in Mexico and South America.

68. Jubilee of the American Bible Society.

The year beginning April 1st, 1865, was appropriately observed as the *Jubilee year* of the Society, by the issuing of an address to the people of the United States, prepared by the Rev. William Adams, D.D.; by instituting special measures for the supply of the Southern States, including the freed people, with the Holy Scriptures; by entering upon the work of electrotyping and printing the Arabic Scriptures, and completing the revision of Valera's Spanish Bible; and by securing the delivery, by eminent ministers of different denominations, of a series of discourses on appropriate topics.

The Society celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary on Thursday, the 10th day of May, 1866, at the Academy of Music, in the city of New York.

James Lenox, Esq., President of the Society, occupied the chair. The Rev. E. P. Rogers, D.D., of New York, read the 148th Psalm and offered prayer. The President delivered a brief but eloquent address.

The Rev. Gardiner Spring, D.D., of New York, the Rt. Rev. Charles P. M'Ilvaine, D.D., of Ohio, the Rev. J. T. Peck, D.D., president of the California Bible Society, the Rev. Rufus Anderson, D.D., of Massachusetts, Hon. Peter D. Vroom, of New Jersey, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, the Rev. Thomas Phillips, D.D., and Rev. Thomas Nolan, delegates from the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Rev. Lachlin Taylor, D.D., and Rev. William Ormiston, D.D., of Canada, the Rev. Cesar Pascal, delegate from the Bible Society of France, the Rev. Isaac G. Bliss, of Constantinople, the Rev. Bishop

Edmund S. Janes, D.D., of New York, the Rev. Thomas E. Vermilye, D.D., of New York, Major General O. O. Howard, of the United States Army, and the Rev. Dr. Jonas King, of Athens, Greece, severally took part in the exercises of the occasion, which were throughout deeply interesting and impressive. The Rev. Mark Hopkins, D.D., of Massachusetts, pronounced the benediction.

As a fitting acknowledgment of the goodness of God to the Society during all its history, and as an appropriate method of marking its entrance upon the second half-century of its work, arrangements were made to engage at once in a general and thorough supply of the United States with the Scriptures. An account of this effort has been given in a previous section.

In the Society's Jubilee Memorial Volume may be found, with much other interesting matter, a commemorative historical discourse, prepared by the Rev. Isaac Ferris, D.D., LL.D., Chancellor of the University of the City of New York.

69. Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

On successive Sabbaths in April and May, 1891, by invitation of the Board of Managers, sermons in commemoration of the work of the American Bible Society, during the seventy-five years of its existence, were delivered by the following pastors in their respective churches: Rev. B. B. Tyler, D.D., of the Church of the Disciples; Rev. G. F. Krotel, D.D., of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity; Rev. Ensign McChesney, D.D., of the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church; and the Rev. William M. Taylor, D.D., of the Broadway Tabernacle.

Rev. Dr. Talbot W. Chambers delivered the historical discourse in the Collegiate Dutch Church, on Sabbath evening, May 10th, 1891.

On the afternoon of May 13th a meeting was held at the Bible House, at which the Hon. Joshua L. Chamberlain, of Maine, presided. The Rev. J. L. Sooy, of New Jersey, read the Scriptures and offered prayer. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Richard S. Storrs, D.D., LL.D.; the Rev. Joshua Kimber, D.D.; the Rev. J. O. Peck, D.D.; the Rev. J. M. Stevenson, D.D., and the Rev. M. H. Williams, who

respectively presented the greetings of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church of America, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the American Tract Society, and the American Sunday School Union.

On the evening of the same day a public meeting was held in Chickering Hall. The Hon. E. L. Fancher, LL.D., the President of the Society, occupied the chair. The Scriptures were read by the Rev. Dr. Albert J. Lyman, and prayer was offered by the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D. After a statement of the work of the Society for seventy-five years, by Secretary McLean, an appropriate and eloquent address was delivered by the Rev. Phillips Brooks, D.D., of Boston, on the "Bible as the Book of Life." The Rev. T. Aston-Binns, of London, presented the warm congratulations of the British and Foreign Bible Society; the Rev. James Stalker, D.D., of Glasgow, bore greetings from the National Bible Society of Scotland; and the Rev. John Burton, D.D., of Toronto, spoke of the hearty good-will of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

A meeting for conference concerning the work of the Society was held at the Bible House on the morning of Thursday, May 14th, at which Theophilus A. Brouwer, Esq., Vice-President, presided. Rev. Mr. Burton, of Toronto, conducted the religious services. Representatives from the State Auxiliaries of Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Vermont, from the Washington City Bible Society, and from many Auxiliaries of New York and New Jersey, made addresses and presented valuable suggestions about operations in their respective fields.

70. Books of Reference.

Those who desire more extended and minute information, in relation to Bible societies and the English Bible, will find the following works helpful: Owen's History of the British and Foreign Bible Society; Dudley's Analysis of the System of the Bible Society; Browne's History of the British and Foreign Bible Society; History of the American Bible Society, by Dr. Strickland; the Reprint of the American Bible Society's Reports; Bible Society Record; British and Foreign Bible Society's Annual Reports; Douen's History of the Prot-

estant Bible Society of Paris; Anderson's Annals of the English Bible; M'Clure's Translators Revived; Lewis's History of English Translations; Westcott's History of the English Bible; Eadie's History of the English Bible; Scrivener's Cambridge Paragraph Bible; Fry's Description of the Great Bible of 1539; Smith's Dictionary of the Bible, article on Authorized Version; Bible of Every Land; Catalogue of American Bibles, by O'Callaghan; and Wright's Early Bibles of America.

71. How to Help the Society's Work.

"The sole object of the Institution is to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment." Its friends may aid its work—

(1.) By buying and circulating its books. Those books are attractive in binding and typography. They are variously adapted for all classes of persons: books in large type for the aged; in raised letters for the blind; parts of the Bible for the convenience of readers who prefer not to hold a heavy book; reference Bibles for those who compare Scripture with Scripture; Bibles in various languages for foreigners, and of various sizes for pulpits, families, travellers, scholars, and others. The publications of the Society are widely distributed through the country. Many booksellers keep them in stock, and they may be found in or ordered through the *county depositories* at numerous points. Whoever becomes a purchaser and distributer helps the Society's work.

(2.) By commending the Scriptures to others, and convincing men that they owe it to themselves, their families, their country, and their God to own, read, and study this Book of Truth.

(3.) By entering heartily into arrangements providing for a thorough and economical resupply of districts with the Bible. This home work of exploration and supply falls properly within the province of local societies auxiliary to the American Bible Society. Their efficiency and success depend mainly upon the voluntary co-operation of churches and individual Christians.

(4.) By remitting donations to the American Bible Society, for its benevolent work in our own and in foreign lands, that it may sc seed of truth in the vast and accessible field which opens before i

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I.

THIS Society shall be known by the name of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, of which the sole object shall be to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment. The only copies in the English language, to be circulated by the Society, shall be of the version now in common use.

ARTICLE II.

This Society shall add its endeavors to those employed by other societies, for circulating the Scriptures throughout the United States and their Territories; and shall furnish them with stereotype plates, or such other assistance as circumstances may require. This Society shall also, according to its ability, extend its influence to other countries, whether Christian, Mohammedan, or pagan.

ARTICLE III.

All Bible societies shall be allowed to purchase, at cost, from this Society, Bibles for distribution within their own districts; and the officers of all such Bible societies as shall hereafter agree to place their surplus revenue, after supplying their own districts with the Bible, at the disposal of this Society, shall be entitled to vote in all meetings of the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

Each subscriber of three dollars annually shall be a member.

ARTICLE V.

Each subscriber of thirty dollars at one time shall be a member for life.

ARTICLE VI.

Each subscriber of one hundred and fifty dollars at one time, or who shall, by one additional payment, increase his original subscription to one hundred and fifty dollars, shall be a director for life; but he shall not be such director when he is in receipt of any salary, emolument, or compensation for services, from the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

Directors shall be entitled to attend and speak, and if constituted directors before June 1st, 1877, shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE VIII.

A Board of Managers shall be appointed to conduct the business of the Society, consisting of thirty-six laymen, of whom twenty-four shall reside in the city of New York or its vicinity. One-fourth part of the whole number shall go out of office at the expiration of each year, but shall be re-eligible.

Every minister of the gospel, who is a member for life of the Society, if he be not entitled to receive any salary, emolument, or compensation for services, from the Society, shall be entitled to meet and vote with the Board of Managers, and be possessed of the same powers as a Manager himself.

The Managers shall appoint all officers, and call special general meetings, and fill such vacancies as may occur, by death or otherwise, in their own Board.

ARTICLE IX.

Each member of the Society shall be entitled, under the direction of the Board of Managers, to purchase Bibles and Testaments at the Society's prices, which shall be as low as possible.

ARTICLE X.

The annual meetings of the Society shall be held at New York or Philadelphia, at the option of the Society, on the second Thursday of May in each year, when the Managers shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

ARTICLE XI.

The President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer, for the time being, shall be considered, *ex-officio*, members of the Board of Managers. The Assistant Treasurer, General Agent, and Secretaries, shall, in addition to their other duties, attend meetings of the Board, and of the Committees thereof, to render such aid in imparting information, recording and reading proceedings and minutes, and in preparing reports, as may be required of them.

ARTICLE XII.

At the general meetings of the Society, and the meetings of the Managers, the President, or, in his absence, the Vice-President first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the Vice-Presidents, such member as shall be appointed for that purpose, shall preside at the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Managers shall meet on the first Thursday in each month, or oftener if necessary, at such place in the city of New York as they shall from time to time adjourn to.

ARTICLE XIV.

The Managers shall have the power of appointing such persons as have rendered essential services to the Society, either members for life or directors for life.

ARTICLE XV.

The whole minutes of every meeting shall be signed by the Chairman.

ARTICLE XVI.

No alteration shall be made in this Constitution, except by the Society at an annual meeting, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers.